THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No,Sir. Price which the industry gets is presently about 45% of total cost of wagons.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of FM Radio Station and HPTV Transmitter at Junagarh

359. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA
SHRI SANAT MEHTA:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the request of the government of Gujarat about setting up of an FM Radio station and a HPTV transmitter at Junagarh so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how long it will take for the government to come to a decision in the interest of vast area of Saurastra region of the State;

(c) the decision of Government of India about inclusion of this proposal in the next plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to set up a Relay centre with 5 Kw FM Transmitter, Playback Facilities and a High power TV Transmitter in place of the existing Low power TV Transmitter at Junagarh during 9th plan period. However, implementation of the proposal will depend upon availability of adequate furds, other infrasctructural facilities and relative priorities.

Judicial Commission on Railway Safety

360. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a Judicial Commission to go into all aspects of railway safety and to make suitable recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) Whether the railway safety aspect is at stake since the past few months ; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The following safety measures have been taken by Railways for further improvement in safety of trains :

1. Priority execution of track circuiting on all the trunk route and main line stations.

2. Change in signalling circuitry to prevent slot being given till starter and advance starter signal for the preceding train have been put back to on position.

3. The track structure has been strengthened. The rails have been converted into long welded rail panels by welding and removing fishplates.

4. The Communication facility between station staff driver and guard of running trains will be provided.

5. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscilograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.

6. The condition of rolling stock has been improved. Four-wheeler wagons are being replaced progressively with better bogie Air -brake stock.

7. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, all ROH depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.

8. The training of staff has been given new thrust with better training facilities like projector, slides, study and discussions of accident cases.

9. Simulators have been installed for training of drivers. Two Simulators are working, one each at Kanpur and Tughlakabad. Two more are being imported from Australia.

10. Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about singnals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.

11. Instant Action Groups have been formed on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and persons carrying inflammable/explosive material.

12. The frequency of inspections and surprise checks has been increased . More safety drives have been launched.

Concession for Senior Citizens and School Teachers

361. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railways have provided for some fare and related concessions for senior citizens and secondary school teachers;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, justifications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) Senior Citizens of 65 and above are granted 25% concession in Second and Sleeper Class Main/Express fares. Teachers of Primary, Secondary, High and Higher Secondary Schools are granted 25% concession in Second and Sleeper Class Main/Express fares when travelling beyond 300 Kms. in groups of minimum four for educational tours of places of historical, geographical and cultural importance. The concession is granted on production of the requisite certificate from the Head Master/Head Mistress/Principal of the concerned school.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of New Trains

362. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BENDA CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demands made by the State governments, Members of Parliament and various organisations for introduction of new trains during the current year, train-wise;

(b) whether the new trains announced in the Budget 1997-98 and thereafter on various occasions have been introduced;

(c) if so, the names of new trains introduced by the Government in different States in the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence;

(d) the details of Railways Zones/Divisions through which these trains are running;

(e) the details of additional facilities being provided to the Railway commuters;

(f) the names of the new trains which are yet to be introduced alongwith the reasons for delay;

(g) whether there is any proposal to attach all type of coaches in the trains plying at present; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reaosns for not attaching all type of bogies in all the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Representations are received for introduction of trains at various levels of the Railway Administration . As the information is voluminous and involves repetition, these are not compiled train-wise.

(b) All the trains announced except the following. have been introduced :

1. Ahmedabad-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp. (Weekly).

2. Porbander-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Exp. (Weekly).

3. Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Express (Triweekly).

4. Vasco-Bangalore Express.

5. Amritsar-Jaipur Express (Bi-weekly).

6. Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Exp. (Weekly).

7. Koraput-Rayagada Link Express to Bhubaneshwar.

(c) Railways do not introduce trains State-wise.

(d) and (e) 101 trains-40 Express and 61 passenger trains serving commuters in the 9 Zonal Railways and covering about 40 Divisions have been introduced during 1997-98.

(f) Trains mentioned in part (b) of the reply have not been introduced due to operational and resource constraints.

(g) and (h) No,Sir. It is not feasible to attach all types of coaches in the trains.

DD Programmes in J & K

363. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Programmes are visible in Doda, Rajauri, Poonch Kathna and other border districts of Jammu and Kashmir;